Appl. No. 09/804,003
Amendment and/or Reply
to the Office Action of 14 April 2005

Page 2 of 11

1. Amendments to the Claims:

A listing of the entire set of pending claims (including amendments to the claims, if any) is submitted herewith per 37 CFR 1.121. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of rating database objects, comprising: a step of categorizing the objects into a plurality of categories; and a step of rating at least one of said categories; characterized in that the method further comprises a step of

arranging the categories in accordance with a multi-level category scheme with a first level of categories and a second level of categories subordinate to a respective category of the first level; [[,]] and a step of

computing a rating of a category of the first level as a function of ratings of subordinate categories of the second level.

2. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 1, characterized in that wherein the rating of the category of the first level is computed as the average of the ratings of subordinate categories of the second level.

3. (Currently Amended) A method as defined as defined in claim 1, characterized in that wherein the method further comprises a step of visually representing a rating by means of a color.

4. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 3, characterized in that wherein a plurality of ratings is represented by means of a single color, a parameter of said color corresponding to a respective one of said plurality of ratings.

Atty. Docket No. NL000147

Appl. No. 09/804,003
Amendment and/or Reply
to the Office Action of 14 April 2005

Page 3 of 11

5. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said parameter is the saturation of said color.

6. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein~~characterized in that~~ the objects are programs in an electronic program guide (EPG) database, and the categories of the first and second level are genres and sub-genres of said programs, respectively.

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for processing database objects, said objects being categorized into a plurality of categories, the apparatus comprising: user profile means for rating at least one of said categories, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the user profile means are further adapted to arrange said categories in accordance with a multi-level category scheme with a first level of categories and a second level of categories subordinate to a respective category of the first level, and to compute a rating of a category of the first level as a function of ratings of subordinate categories of the second level.

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as defined in claim 7, wherein~~characterized in~~ ~~that~~ the rating of the category of the first level is computed as the average of the ratings of subordinate categories of the second level.

9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as defined in claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the apparatus further comprises a display screen and the user profile means are adapted to visually represent a rating by means of a color.

10. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as defined in claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a plurality of ratings is represented by means of a single color, a parameter of said color corresponding to a respective one of said plurality of ratings.

Atty. Docket No. NL000147

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Appl. No. 09/804,003
Amendment and/or Reply
to the Office Action of 14 April 2005

Page 4 of 11

11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as defined in claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said parameter is the saturation of said color.

12. (Currently Amended) A broadcast receiver as an apparatus as defined in claim 7, wherein said objects being programs in an electronic program guide (EPG) database, and the categories of the first and second level being genres and sub-genres of said programs, respectively.

13. (Previously Presented) A computer program product for performing, when executed on a programmable computing device, the steps of the method as defined in claim 1.

14. (New) An apparatus, comprising:

a central processing unit (CPU) adapted to process a plurality of database objects; wherein the objects are categorized into a plurality of categories;

a user profile module adapted to rate at least one of the plurality of categories, wherein the user profile module is adapted to arrange the plurality of categories in accordance with a multi-level category scheme with a first level of categories and a second level of categories subordinate to a respective category of the first level, and to compute a rating of each of the plurality of categories of the first level as a function of ratings of plurality of categories of the respective second level.

15. (New) An apparatus as recited in claim 14, wherein the rating of the first level of categories is an average of the ratings of respective plurality of categories of the second level.

16. (New) An apparatus as recited in claim 15, wherein the apparatus further comprises a display screen and the user profile module is adapted to visually represent the ratings by colors.

Atty. Docket No. NL000147

Appl. No. 09/804,003
Amendment and/or Reply
to the Office Action of 14 April 2005   Page 5 of 11

17. (New) An apparatus as recited in claim 16, wherein the first and the second levels of categories are displayed on the display screen.

18. (New) An apparatus as recited in claim 17, wherein the display screen is adapted to display a connection indicator, which connects a category of one of the first level of categories to one of the second level of categories.

19. (New) An apparatus as recited in claim 14, further comprising memory adapted to store user profile information.

20. (New) An apparatus as recited in claim 16, further comprising an electronic program guide (EPG) module adapted to display programs on a screen, wherein the ratings of the plurality of second categories are included in the displayed programs.

Atty. Docket No. NL000147